

# OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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## SERMON TITLE

What is Truth? Part 4

## SERIES

## DATE

5/18/2025

## KEY SCRIPTURE

Psalm 15

## SYNOPSIS

Experiencing the presence of the Lord is linked with living a life of integrity.

## HIGHLIGHTS

5-Day Devotional included after the sermon notes.





## ☞ What is Truth, part 4

### Truth, the Key to God's Presence

We have been talking for a few weeks about truth, answering the question that Pilate asked of Jesus – “What is truth?” Truth is vitally important with eternal ramifications and it is being challenged frequently today with conflicting voices. It's often hard to know what to believe and trust. But we understand that truth is established by God; Jesus came to testify to the truth; and the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. Plus, God has given us his Word, the bible, which is truth so that we may stand firm when deception is rampant.

Today, we're diving into Psalm 15, which reminds us of the importance of living the truth since it impacts our relationship with the Lord. The text connects experiencing the presence of the Lord with ☞ living a life of integrity. This psalm, written by David, shows us that **truth and integrity are keys to living close to God.**

#### ☞ Psalm 15

**LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart;** 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; 4 who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

#### ☞ THE PRESENCE OF GOD REQUIRES TRUTH

David starts with the question: “*LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?*” Church, this is about standing in the fire of God's glory, where the Holy Spirit moves in power. Dwelling in the presence of the Lord is something very desirable.

David was often inspired by the idea of entering and abiding in God's presence. In **Psalm 27:4**, he wrote, “**One thing** I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” That's a high priority!

To dwell with God, our lives must be marked by truth and integrity. **John 4:24** says, “God is spirit, and ☞ his worshipers must **worship in Spirit and in truth.**” We enter his presence with praise and worship, and our worship is supposed to be in Spirit and truth.



### **Psalms 43:3-4**

**3 Send forth your light and your truth**, let them guide me; **let them bring me to your holy mountain**, to the place where you dwell. **4** Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.

☞ **Truth guides us into his presence**. After all, God is truth. You think you can enter his presence with lies and a lack of integrity? The radiance of his reality will quickly expose the darkness of your deceit. The presence of God requires truth.

### ☞ **THE PRACTICE OF TRUTH**

Psalms 15 lists the traits of someone who lives in God's presence, and truth and integrity shine through every verse.

#### ☞ **Truthful Character (v. 2a)**

*"The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous..."* This is describing **a life of integrity**, where our actions match our faith. It's about being real with God and others, living transparently in the Spirit's light. **Proverbs 10:9** says, "Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out." Integrity keeps us safe and steady in God's presence.

☞ *"Character is what you are in the dark—**truthful even when no one is watching**."*

*"Truthful character means doing what's right, not what's easy—especially when no one will ever know."*

Truth is more than just avoiding lies and deceit, it needs to be part of your character – who you are, both in public and in private.

#### ☞ **Truthful Conversation (vv. 2b-3)**

*Spencer Johnson... "Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people."*

*"...who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others..."* Church, our **words matter**! Speaking truth from the heart means no lies, no gossip, no tearing others down. Those kinds of things grieve the Holy Spirit.

**Colossians 3:9-10** says, "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." You see, truthful speech reflects our new life in Christ. As Spirit-filled believers, let's speak with honesty, trusting the Spirit to guide our words.



Our speech should be honest, but must also be enveloped in love. **Ephesians 4:15** talks about speaking the truth in love, meaning truth does not need to be expressed in a harsh or hurtful manner. We are to **☞ speak the truth in love**, which includes tact and timing.

*Chuck Smith... There are some that speak the truth, but there is not much love. They almost seem to be angry. It seems that they always have a point to prove, and they are prone to pound into the ground anyone who might have a different view.*

Putting truth into practice includes truthful conversation – being honest, avoiding any kind of slander, and making sure it is expressed in a loving manner.

### **☞ Truthful Conduct (vv. 4-5)**

*Despising vile behavior but honoring those who fear the Lord.* A person of integrity rejects ungodly behavior and deceit, but shows respect and esteem to those who live for God.

☞ *Keeping oaths, even when it hurts.* Truth means **keeping your word**, even at personal cost, because God sees your heart. If you say you will do something, do it! Follow through and finish what you start. If you're not completely sure about a commitment, then under-promise and over-deliver, not vice versa.

*Lending without exploiting; refusing bribes.* Integrity shows when we refuse to take advantage of others, especially those less fortunate than us. And, integrity cannot be bent with a bribe. It stands firm no matter what.

**1 John 3:18** reminds us to make sure our actions and our words agree when it says, "Dear children, let ☞ us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." **Our actions must back up our words.** That is integrity! *"Your word is your bond."*

### **Proverbs 21:3**

The Lord is more pleased when we do what is right and just, than when we offer him sacrifices.

We can say all the right words and worship enthusiastically, but if our actions aren't full of integrity, it is meaningless. Putting truth and integrity into practice includes truthful conduct.

### **☞ THE PRODUCT OF TRUTH**

*"Whoever does these things will never be shaken."* When we live in truth and integrity, the Holy Spirit anchors us. The world may shake, but we stand firm in God's presence, unmoved by lies, deceit or temptation.





**Psalm 112:6** says, “Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever.”

☞ **Truth and integrity make us strong and steadfast.**

*In a small coastal village battered by storms, there lived a lighthouse keeper named Eli. His lighthouse, old and weathered, stood on a jagged cliff, guiding ships through treacherous waters. Every night, Eli climbed the spiral stairs, his knees aching, to light the beacon. He never missed a night, not in thirty years, because he knew lives depended on that light. One winter, a wealthy merchant offered Eli a fortune to dim the beacon for a single night. You see, the merchant’s rival was sailing through, and a wreck would ruin him. Now, Eli’s family was poor, his wife sick, and the money could’ve changed everything. But Eli looked the merchant in the eye and said, “The light stays on.” The merchant laughed, called him a fool, and left. That night, the storm was fierce, waves crashing like thunder. Eli climbed the stairs, lit the beacon, and stood watch until dawn. The rival’s ship made it through safely, and word spread of Eli’s refusal to dim the light. The village, moved by his integrity, rallied to help his family, bringing food, medicine, and support. Eli never spoke of the merchant’s offer, but his unwavering choice became a quiet legend. The lighthouse stood firm, and so did he, a beacon of strength – not for glory, but because it was right.*

When we commit ourselves to truth and integrity, it enables us to stand strong no matter what.

Psalm 15 is a call to live with truth and integrity so we can walk in God’s presence, and the Holy Spirit can move freely in us! So...

☞ **Search your heart:** Ask the Spirit to reveal any hidden lies, deception, or compromise. Repent and let him fill you with truth.

☞ **Speak the truth:** Commit to words that honor God—no lies, no gossip, no slander, only truth seasoned with love.

☞ **Stand in integrity:** Keep your promises, honor others, resist corruption. Let your actions shine with the Spirit’s power.

Psalm 15 shows us that truth and integrity are the pathway to God’s presence. We can’t live this way on our own, but through the blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit’s power, we can dwell in God’s presence. Church, let’s pursue truth and integrity with all our hearts, so the Spirit moves powerfully among us. Who’s ready to live unshakable in God’s presence? Then practice integrity and live a life of truth – truthful character, truthful conversation, and truthful conduct.



## Five-Day Devotional: Truth, the Key to God's Presence

This five-day devotional, inspired by the sermon "**What is Truth, Part 4: Truth, the Key to God's Presence**" based on **Psalms 15**, explores living a life of truth and integrity to dwell in God's presence. Each day includes reflections, scriptures, cross-reference verses for deeper study, and practical applications.

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### Day 1: The Desire to Dwell in God's Presence

**Scripture:** Psalm 15:1 – *"LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain?"*

**Reflection:** David's question reveals a longing to abide in God's glory. Like him, we are called to prioritize intimacy with God, seeking His presence above all. Truth and integrity pave the way to this closeness, as God desires worshipers who approach Him in Spirit and truth. Reflect on your heart: Is dwelling with God your highest priority?

#### Cross References:

- Psalm 27:4 – David's desire to dwell in God's house and gaze upon His beauty.
- John 4:24 – Worshiping God in Spirit and truth.
- Hebrews 12:14 – Pursuing holiness to see the Lord.

**Application:** Spend 5-10 minutes in worship, praising God for His holiness. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any barriers to His presence. Journal your reflections and commit to seeking God daily.

**Prayer:** Lord, I long to dwell in Your presence. Guide me in truth and integrity to abide with You. Fill me with Your Spirit and draw me closer. Amen.



## Day 2: Truthful Character

**Scripture:** Psalm 15:2a – *“The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous...”*

**Reflection:** A truthful character is the bedrock of a life pleasing to God. Integrity means our actions align with our faith, even in private. As Proverbs 10:9 assures, integrity brings security. God calls us to live transparently, reflecting His righteousness. Reflect: Are you consistent in your character, whether seen or unseen?

### Cross References:

- Proverbs 10:9 – Integrity leads to security, but crooked paths are exposed.
- 1 Timothy 1:5 – A pure heart and good conscience produce sincere faith.
- Titus 2:7-8 – Showing integrity and soundness in behavior.

**Application:** Identify one area to grow in integrity (e.g., honesty in small matters). Take a practical step today, like keeping a commitment faithfully, to align your actions with your faith.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, mold my character to reflect Your truth. Help me live blamelessly, doing right even when it's hard. Let my life honor You always. Amen.



### Day 3: Truthful Conversation

**Scripture:** Psalm 15:2b-3 – *“...who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others...”*

**Reflection:** Our words matter. God calls us to speak truth from the heart, avoiding lies, gossip, and slander. Truthful speech, seasoned with love (Ephesians 4:15), reflects our new life in Christ and invites God’s presence. Reflect: Do your words build up or tear down?

#### Cross References:

- Ephesians 4:15 – Speaking the truth in love.
- Colossians 3:9-10 – Putting off lying and living as a new self in Christ.
- James 3:10-11 – The tongue’s power to bless or curse.

**Application:** Before speaking today, ask, “Is this true, kind, and necessary?” Avoid gossip and instead encourage someone with loving, truthful words.

**Prayer:** Lord, guard my tongue and fill my heart with Your truth. Help me speak words that honor You and bless others. Let my speech reflect Your grace. Amen.





## Day 4: Truthful Conduct

**Scripture:** Psalm 15:4-5 – *“...who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts... who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.”*

**Reflection:** Truthful conduct means our actions match our words. Integrity shines when we keep promises, honor the godly, and refuse to exploit others. As 1 John 3:18 urges, we must love with actions and truth. Reflect: Do your actions consistently reflect God’s truth?

### Cross References:

- 1 John 3:18 – Loving with actions and truth, not just words.
- Proverbs 21:3 – Doing right is more pleasing to God than sacrifices.
- Micah 6:8 – Acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

**Application:** Fulfill a commitment today, even if inconvenient. Show kindness to someone in need without expecting reward. Stand firm against temptation to compromise integrity.

**Prayer:** Father, let my actions reflect Your truth. Strengthen me to keep my word, honor others, and live justly. May my conduct shine for Your glory. Amen.



## Day 5: The Product of Truth

**Scripture:** Psalm 15:5b – *“Whoever does these things will never be shaken.”*

**Reflection:** Living in truth and integrity anchors us in God’s presence, making us unshakable amid life’s storms. Psalm 112:6 promises the righteous will stand firm. Like a lighthouse enduring fierce waves, our commitment to truth strengthens us. Reflect: How is God calling you to live unshakable?

### Cross References:

- Psalm 112:6 – The righteous will never be shaken and will be remembered.
- Matthew 7:24-25 – Building on the rock of God’s truth withstands storms.
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 – Standing firm in the Lord’s work.

**Application:** Search your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any hidden lies or compromise. Repent and commit to one specific way to live in truth this week (e.g., honesty in a relationship).

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, anchor me in Your truth. Forgive my failings and empower me to live with integrity. Let me dwell in Your presence, unshakable for Your glory. Amen.

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**Closing Challenge:** Psalm 15 calls us to live with truth and integrity so the Holy Spirit can move powerfully. As you finish this devotional, pursue truth wholeheartedly. Worship in Spirit and truth (John 4:24), and let your life be a beacon of integrity, guiding others to God’s presence.